UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/867,679	05/31/2001	Martin John Millmore	5231-051-US01	7209

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/867,679	MILLMORE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JAVID A. AMINI	2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 November 2009*.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)   Office Action Summary   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20100103

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/11/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant at bottom of page 2 of the remarks argues that Seidman does not disclose or suggest at least that any of the of the formats or tables are "attribute data defining attributes of a data entry form having at least one data entry field", "causing the data entry form to be displayed on a display in accordance with the stored attribute data" or a data entry form "into which a user enters a value".

Examiner replies: Seidman clearly teaches at [0017] FIG. 3 depicts a sample address index table for an exemplary embodiment. The index table is stored on a storage device 108 that is connected to the host system 104. The index table shows how the address format is tied to each country. The table could include the ISO country code 302, the country name 304, and the address format identifier 306. In this embodiment, the address format identifier 306 ties the country name 304 to a particular address format (see FIG. 2 for an example format). Each UN country is listed in this table along with the associated address format code. The data in this table is updated periodically, either manually or electronically, based on changes made by the UPU to the address formats. In another embodiment, the address format identifier 306 could tie the country code field 302 to a particular address format. In addition, other country codes, from other standards organizations, could be substituted for the ISO country code. [0018] FIG. 4 is a flowchart of an exemplary process for formatting international shipping addresses. A user system 102 will contact the host system 104 through the network 106 to request an address conversion. In addition, this request could come from an application local to the host system

104. The requesting system will send a parsed address to the formatting application. This address will be received by the formatting application at step 402. The application will isolate a portion of the parsed address, in this example the country field at step 414 and look up the country field in the address format table (see FIG. 3) to get the associated address format field at step 406. The application will proceed to apply the template to the parsed address at step 408 and then output the reformatted address in the country specific format at step 410.

Applicant at top of page 3 argues Seidman does not disclose in any way displaying anything, and does not even include the word "display".

Examiner's replies: Seidman used the word "depict" instead of "display" in his invention See [0016] FIG. 2 depicts a sample address format from a standards organization. The format shown is based on the current UPU standards and would currently apply to countries such as Brazil and Poland. Address formatting standards from other standards organizations could also be implemented using the present invention. Referring to FIG. 2, the first and second line contain the company name fields 202 and 204. The third and fourth lines of the address format are the street address fields 206 and 208. The fifth line includes both the postal code field 210 and the city field 212. The last line of this address format contains the state/province field 214 and the country field 216. Each UPU address format can be used by one or more countries, in this example both Brazil and Poland use this format. There will be one address format for each unique address configuration as defined by the UPU. These formats will be updated on a periodic basis, either manually or electronically, based on changes by the UPU. The address formats are stored on a storage device 108 connected to the host system 104.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding the second reference who teaches for

monitoring data values entered by the user into said at least one data entry field, e.g., see [0013]

that discloses required address fields (i.e., metadata describing address fields and data that must

be present in all addresses for a country), for error checking.

Applicant welcomes to schedule an interview with Examiner to discuss the claimed

invention vs the references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidman

Pub. No. 2002/0174148 A1, and further in view of Yu Pub. No. 2002/0153409 A1.

1.

Seidman teaches A computer-implemented system for controlling the appearance of a

data entry form on a display to which the system is connected for use in entering data into a

database (e.g., at [0021] discloses in the form of computer program code, see also fig. 2), the

system comprising a storage for storing attribute data defining attributes of a data entry form

having at least one data entry field and, for the at least one data entry field, storing a plurality of

data values and, for each of the plurality of stored data values, storing corresponding attribute

data defining a different set of data entry fields for each of the plurality of data values (e.g.,

Seidman clearly teaches at [0017] FIG. 3 depicts a sample address index table for an exemplary

embodiment. The index table is stored on a storage device 108 that is connected to the host

system 104. The index table shows how the address format is tied to each country. The table

could include the ISO country code 302, the country name 304, and the address format identifier

306. In this embodiment, the address format identifier 306 ties the country name 304 to a

particular address format (see FIG. 2 for an example format). Each UN country is listed in this

table along with the associated address format code. The data in this table is updated

periodically, either manually or electronically, based on changes made by the UPU to the

address formats. In another embodiment, the address format identifier 306 could tie the country

code field 302 to a particular address format. In addition, other country codes, from other

standards organizations, could be substituted for the ISO country code. [0018] FIG. 4 is a

flowchart of an exemplary process for formatting international shipping addresses. A user

system 102 will contact the host system 104 through the network 106 to request an address

conversion. In addition, this request could come from an application local to the host system

104. The requesting system will send a parsed address to the formatting application. This

address will be received by the formatting application at step 402. The application will isolate a

portion of the parsed address, in this example the country field at step 414 and look up the

country field in the address format table (see FIG. 3) to get the associated address format field at

step 406. The application will proceed to apply the template to the parsed address at step 408

and then output the reformatted address in the country specific format at step 410. In fig. 2 that

illustrates a data entry form on display, and representing a different set of data entry fields, it

would have been obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and

equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the

invention, see fig. 3 #306 designated address format that ties the country code field #302 to a

particular address format); and a controller for causing the data entry form to be displayed on a

display (*Seidman used the word "depict" instead of "display" in his invention. See [0016] FIG.*

2 depicts a sample address format from a standards organization. The format shown is based on

the current UPU standards and would currently apply to countries such as Brazil and Poland.

Address formatting standards from other standards organizations could also be implemented

using the present invention. Referring to FIG. 2, the first and second line contain the company

name fields 202 and 204. The third and fourth lines of the address format are the street address

fields 206 and 208. The fifth line includes both the postal code field 210 and the city field 212.

The last line of this address format contains the state/province field 214 and the country field

216. Each UPU address format can be used by one or more countries, in this example both

Brazil and Poland use this format. There will be one address format for each unique address

configuration as defined by the UPU. These formats will be updated on a periodic basis, either

manually or electronically, based on changes by the UPU. The address formats are stored on a

storage device 108 connected to the host system 104) in accordance with the stored attribute data

(see fig. 3 #302 and 306 are considered as stored attribute data) <u>but not initially displaying a</u>

<u>value and into which a user enters a value, (</u>e.g., at [0018] or in fig. 4 teaches receiving a parsed

address from a user computer/system that will contact the host system through the network to

request an address conversion. In addition, this request could come from an application local to

the host system. The requesting system will send a parsed address to the formatting application.

This address will be received by the formatting application at step 402 in fig. 4. The application

will isolate a portion of the parsed address, in this example the country field at step 414 and look

up the country field in the address format table (see FIG. 3) to get the associated address format

field at step 406. The application will proceed to apply the template to the parsed address at step

408 and then output the reformatted address in the country specific format at step 410).

Seidman does not explicitly specify for monitoring data values entered by the user into

said at least one data entry field, and, in response to entry by the user of a value into the at least

one data entry field that matches one of the plurality of stored data values (#406 fig. 4 of

Seidman) , displaying in said data entry form in addition to said at least one data entry field the

set of data entry fields that corresponds to the value entered into the at least one data entry field

according to the attribute data defining the set of data entry fields, e.g. see figs. 3-4 of Seidman.

However, Yu teaches for monitoring data values entered by the user into said at least one

data entry field, e.g., see [0013] that discloses required address fields (i.e., metadata describing

address fields and data that must be present in all addresses for a country), for error checking.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to combine the teachings of Yu

into Seidman's teachings in order to support not only validation of addresses for a given

country's postal addresses (e.g., U.S. addresses), but also includes support for validating the

postal addresses for other countries as well. Such a global validation system would not be tied to

any particular character set, but would instead be flexible enough to handle any country's address

formats. The system would be able to correctly discern address information irrespective of

country-specific features and be able to compare that information with known addresses in its

database in an efficient manner. Additionally, the system should be able to ensure that incoming

addresses meet country-specific requirements (as to acceptable address format) of the many

different countries.

2.

A system according to claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to enable a user to define the

content of the storage, see paragraph 0013 of Seidman.

4.

The system of claim 1, wherein said one data entry field accepts an address style data value and

the corresponding further data entry field is an address entry field having a correct format for the

address style data value, see fig. 2 of Seidman.

5.

The system of claim 1, wherein the corresponding further data entry field corresponds in form

with the data value entered into said one data entry field, see fig. 2 of Seidman.

6.

The system of claim 1, wherein said one data entry field accepts a data value indicating a style

and the corresponding further data entry field has a correct format for the indicated style, see fig.

4 steps 408 and 410 of Seidman.

7.

The system of claim 1, wherein the controller further displays a corresponding plurality of

further data entry fields according to the stored attribute data, see fig. 2 that is self explanatory.

8.

 The system of claim 7, wherein the corresponding plurality of further data entry fields

correspond in form with the data value entered into said one data entry field, see fig. 4 step 402

that may be considered as the data entered into one filed e.g., in fig. 3 illustrates ISO code or address format.

9.

The system of claim 7, wherein said one data entry field accepts a data value indicating a style and the corresponding plurality of further data entry fields have correct formats for the indicated style, fig. 4 of Seidman covers all features of the claim 9.

Claim 3 is rejected with similar reasons as set forth in claim 1, above.

Claims 10-15 are rejected with similar reasons as set forth in claims 4-9, respectively, above.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAVID A. AMINI whose telephone number is (571)272-7654. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on 571-272-7794. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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